

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08982 151252Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
----- 059360

R 151220Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
SECSTATE WASHDC 5329
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD UNN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8982

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINS, LE, SY, KU, EG
SUBJECT: ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION

REF: (A) CAIRO 6190; (B) KUWAIT 2952; (C) BEIRUT 8595 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFFS WHO WERE IN OFFICE OF COL BOUSTANY, HEAD OF ARMY G-2, JULY 9 IN CONNECTION WITH MORGAN ABDUCTION, HAD BRIEF OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS CASE OF "ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION" (ACO) WITH BOUSTANY AS WELL AS COL DAHDAAH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SURETE GENERAL, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT. BOUSTANY AND DAHDAAH STATED THAT LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HAD SEIZED LARGE QUANTITY OF DOCUMENTS AND SURVEILLANCE PHOTOGRAPHS IN RAIDS REPORTED REF-TEL C, AND THAT SOME TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DIGEST THESE MATERIALS. AMONG PHOTOGRAPHS, WHICH EMBOFFS WERE SHOWN, WAS ONE OF THIS EMBASSY (FRONT VIEW OF STREET-LEVEL TRADE PROMOTION CENTER WHICH WE JUDGE TO BE AT LEAST SOME MONTHS OLD) AND A NUMBER OF ONE WHITE AMERICAN-MANUFACTURED CAR WITH CD PLATE. AS NONE OF PICTURES OF VEHICLE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08982 151252Z

CLEAR ENOUGH TO PERMIT IDENTIFICATION OF CD PLATE NUMBER AND

OCCUPANTS, WE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED ONE COPY OF PHOTO OF AUTOMOBILE. AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT CAR WAS NOT RPT NOT PROPERTY OF USG EMPLOYEE PRESENTLY ATTACCED TO THIS EMBASSY, WE HAVE FORWARDED PHOTO THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS TO SEE IF PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNICIANS CAN BRING OUT CD PLATE NUMBER.

2. WHILE EMBOFFS STILL PRESENT, CHIEF MILITARY PROSECUTOR GERMANOS STOPPED BRIEFLY IN BOUSTANY'S OFFICE. DURING ARABIC CONVERSATION AMONG GOL OFFICIALS PRESENT, EMBOFF HEARD GERMANOS, WHO HANDLING INTERROGATIONS, SAY THAT THERE WAS DEFINITE EVIDENCE OF ACO CELL IN KUWAIT (WHICH AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS HAD ALREADY REPORTED) AND POSSIBILITY RPT POSSIBILITY OF CONNECTION WITH CELL IN EGYPT. IN THIS CONNECTION, DCM IN EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE TOLD EMBOFF ON JUNE 24 THAT HE HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT PRES SADAT AND GOE CONVINCED SUBVERSIVE GROUPS OPERATING IN EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE PART OF AREA-WIDE LEFTIST CONSPIRACY. WE DO NOT RPT NOT REGARD ITEM IN "AKHBAR AL YAWM" (REFTELA), THEREFORE, AS BEING ENTIRELY OUT OF QUESTION.

3. ALL INFORMATION REGARDING IDENTITY OF ARRESTED MEMBERS OF ACO IN LEBANON AND ELSEWHERE, SUPPORTS CONCLUSION IN KUWAIT 2952 THAT MEMBERSHIP PRIMARILY COMPOSED OF LEBANESE, PALESTINIANS, AND JORDANIANS. MOST SENIOR ACO LEADER ARRESTED TO DATE IS PALESTINIAN, ALI GHADBAN, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN SYRIA. GHADBAN IS PROBABLY INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED PARA 5, REFTEL C ABOUT WHOSE TRAVEL TO SYRIA LEBANESE SECURITY OFFICIALS CLAIM TO HAVE WARNED SYRIAN AUTHORITIES.

4. NOW THAT OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH MORGAN KIDNAPPING IS ENDED, WE HOPE TO LEARN FURTHER DETAILS OF OL INVESTIGATION OF ACO AND WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO ADDRESSEES AS RECEIVED.

GODLEY

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